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Congress of the United States PLEASE USE THE
House of Representatives ROCKY MOUNT ADDRESS
Washington, DC 20515-4605

November 8, 2002

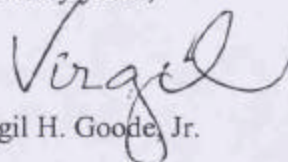
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DEQ-OD

Mr. Robert Burnley, Director
Department of Environmental Quality
629 East Main Street
P.O. Box 10009
Richmond, VA 23240

Dear Bob:

I am writing to ask that you show every consideration to not requiring any additional TMDL study in Franklin County unless such is specifically requested by the Franklin County Board of Supervisors. It is my understanding that DEQ may be spending a significant sum with a private vendor to conduct a TMDL study on the Blackwater River in Franklin County. Such a study will pose a burden to Franklin County and to many farmers. Quite frankly, if I had a choice between the DMV in Rocky Mount and a TMDL study, I would take having a DMV office open in Rocky Mount every time. We do not need to be spending any money on a TMDL study during these times of cut backs at the state level. I would be very grateful for your consideration of this matter. With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Virgil H. Goode, Jr.

VHGjr/jmg

Cc: Mr. Rick Huff
Franklin County Administrator
40 East Court Street
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

Cc: Ms. Bonnie Johnson
Franklin County Assistant Administrator
40 East Court Street
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

70 East Court Street, Suite 215, Rocky Mount, VA 24151
Fax: 540-484-1459 Phone: 540-484-1254



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The Honorable Virgil H. Goode, Jr.
Congress of the United States
70 East Court Street, Suite 215
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

Dear Congressman Goode:

Thank you for your letter conveying concerns over the continuation of TMDL studies in the Blackwater River Basin and their cost impacts both on State government as well on the citizens of Franklin County.

To address your concerns I believe it would be helpful to first review the status of TMDL activity in Franklin County. TMDL studies have been completed for seven stream segments in Franklin County. Each addressed water quality problems due to excess bacteria restricting recreational uses in these waters. The U.S. EPA has approved all of these TMDLs. For four stream segments within the Blackwater River Basin, a TMDL Implementation Plan was developed. The Plan outlines the specific best management practices (BMPs) needed to meet the pollution reduction allocations contained in the TMDLs. Funding is currently being made available through EPA's section 319 grant to assist landowners willing to implement the BMPs outlined in the plan. Franklin County representatives have been included in all planning activities related to TMDLs in their county and we will certainly continue to work closely with the County in future TMDL activities.

As you may recall from previous correspondence, the TMDL program is being implemented in Virginia under a federal court consent decree. The ongoing TMDL studies referenced in your letter involve three of the Blackwater River streams discussed above since they also include biological impairments in addition to the bacteria impairments. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) needs to also finish the TMDLs for these biological impairments in order to meet the requirements of the federal court consent decree. If DEQ does not stay on the schedule contained in the consent decree for producing TMDLs, then EPA is required to develop the TMDLs.

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The TMDL program is almost entirely funded by federal grants from EPA. In the past few years, DEQ and EPA have developed and implemented new TMDL technology that is improving the cost-effectiveness of the TMDL program. We currently estimate the TMDL development costs to be one-third to one-half less than the \$60 million estimate we provided to the Governor and General Assembly in 2000.

Thank you again for your comments. I look forward to continuing our dialogue on the TMDL program with you as well as local government officials throughout the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Merry Christmas
Bob

Robert G. Burnley

c: Mr. Rick Huff, Franklin County
Ms. Bonnie L. Johnson, Franklin County